THE EXAMINER.

No. 49. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1808.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few.
SWIFT.

No. 49.

A QUESTION RESPECTING THE PRESENT GOVERNORS OF PORTUGAL.

When Sir Hew Dalrymple was advised by the Portuguese General to consult the native government, he replied that he knew not where it was to be found. Whether this answer satisfied the Patriot, has not been discovered: Sir Hew, though he lived at Gibraltar and might reasonably have been expected to know something of the neighbouring nations, has confessed that he was totally ignorant of the country he went to conquer; and like the man in Marlborough's army who sent home to his wife for a newspaper or two *to know what he was doing*, was probably waiting for some such natural insight into his own means and motives. How was he to know any thing about the forts and strong holds of Portugal? He had not seen the newspapers. How was he to know that *the first Portuguese he met, who was held in esteem by the natives, deserved his confidence and consultation?* He had not seen the newspapers. How was he to find such a person, though he was close at his side, when his very letters on the most urgent business could not find Sir Arthur Wellesley? He had not seen the newspapers. Sir Arthur Wellesley himself, who signed the preliminaries, tells us that he never saw the Convention till he beheld it in the newspapers; and Sir Hew candidly acknowledges that he never knew he had committed a single mistake or oversight till the newspapers gave the hint to his astonished faculties.—Courage, Messieurs Editors! If our Generals cannot do much for us, you see we can do something for them.*

* It is a fertile subject of speculation, to see how unanimous our Lisbon Generals are in denying all knowledge of the forts and strong holds of Portugal. What an idea does this give us of their military education and studies! What could Sir Hew Dalrymple have possibly been doing in all his mornings, days, and evenings at Gibraltar? Did he never feel any ambition to be acquainted, through the medium even of books, with the probable strength of the coasts about him? I dare say Lisbon is scarcely a strong hold of any consequence in Europe of which Bonaparte has not some knowledge either by sight or by study. The Proprietor of the *Liverpool Chronicle* was punished, it seems, the other day for a libel on the Military System. I have not seen the formidable article: but he must have been ferocious indeed.

The English however are now in Lisbon, and we might justly expect to hear something at last of the Portuguese government. But the silence is as inquisitorial as that of the Spanish Junta. Our courtiers at home used to be very anxious to keep us in mind of the usurping and tyrannical behaviour of the French in Lisbon, of the proud cruelty with which they overthrew the constituted authorities, and of their horrible military government which converted the system of police into the worst of martial laws. The French are expelled, and of course, according to the courtiers, usurpation and tyranny with them; but how is it we hear nothing of our excellent improvements, of our protecting and respectful tenderness for the inhabitants of Lisbon, of all the new order of things, in short, which has superseded French anarchy and *freed* Portugal from a foreign yoke? I thought that we were to have had congratulations without number; that Lisbon was to have had illuminations and processions for more than the first day or two; that masses were to have been said, beads rattled, and saints worn out with kisses, for the benefit of our heretic souls; and that the English Commander (for the time being) was at least to have been rewarded like General Castaños, with a laurel crown for conquering in the cause of liberty. But no; we hear nothing of the governors or the governed; mails come away; merchants come away, generals come away; but still we hear nothing of the government: a pause, to our ears at least, has succeeded the French shock like that of the last earthquake, and to use the remarkable lines of a great poet,

> A horrid stillness first invades the ear,
> And in that stillness we a tempest fear.

Something of the sound of intelligence reached us last week; but it was the sound of trouble. The name of a constituted officer is at length mentioned, but not that of the President of the Council or of the Secretary for Foreign Affairs amicably discussing some point of alliance with our Generals; it is the Intendant General of the Police denouncing punishment against those natives who seduce British soldiers to desert. I never knew before that this was the office of a Police Magistrate. Where are all the Military Magistrates and Officers of Lisbon? Where are all the Constituted Authorities whom we were to restore to their proper places and offices, when delivered from French oppression? I cannot conceive why so many men should *desert* as to render this proclamation necessary. A foolish fellow or two may be seduced by the wines and the wantons of the country, and like Capt. Cook's

men at Otaheite think to obtain a fine lazy life by running away; but I wish the Senor Intendant, whether *purposely* or not, may not have mistaken death for desertion, and think that men have run away who have perished beneath the knives of the inhabitants. I wish to God this may not be the case; but unless the proclamation is the mere excuse of an arbitrary military government to encrease the rigour of its rule, it is greatly to be feared that the soldiers who have disappeared have vanished for ever.

Our Commanders in Lisbon owe us an account of their proceedings; they owe us an explanation of their politics, of the seeming intention of the natives with regard to the future government of Portugal, and of their own mode of assisting them consistently with the promises under which the country was entered by our troops. A silent government is always a suspicious one in every sense of the word. It is but now, that people are beginning to know something of our government of Ireland during the late troubles, and, Gracious Heaven, what a government it was! But more of this hereafter. Charity is said to begin at home; but liberty seems to begin and end there too. Have we given freedom to India? Have we given it to Ireland? Did we give it to America, or did she not take it?—Liberty indeed is in England, and I believe only in England in this quarter of the globe; but she is bedridden, and the slaves who batten on her rich old age, only leave her home to abuse her credit and dissipate her wealth.

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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

SPAIN.

[*FROM THE PATRIOTIC PAPERS.*]

ARANJUEZ, Nov. 12.—The Major-General Count de Belveder has transmitted the following dispatch to the Count de Florida Blanca, from Lerma, dated the 10th instant:—

"MOST SERENE LORD,

"Since I arrived at Burgos, I have been twice attacked by the enemy, and have twice repulsed him; but to-day, after having sustained a fire of thirteen hours, he attacked me with double forces, especially cavalry, of which there were, I imagine, 3000, and at least 6000 infantry. Though my troops sustained the shock with great valour during all that time, they could not resist the enemy's cavalry: and I saw myself obliged to retire to Lerma, and from thence shall proceed to Aranda, to reunite my army.

The Major-General Don Juan De Henestrosa, who commanded in the action, acted with that valour and honour, which is well known to the whole army. I will send your Highness, by an Officer, a circumstantial account of the action, as soon as it can be obtained. The volunteers of Serena, Zafra, Valencia, and the first battalion of the infantry of Truxillo, and the provincial infantry of Badajoz, had not arrived at Burgos, and consequently I can with those corps take a firm position at Aranda.

"I am informed that the enemy is following me only in a small number, but as I suspect that he will pursue me to-morrow, I am now (ten at night), leaving this place.

"I yesterday received advice from Lieutenant-General Don Joachim Blake, of the apprehensions he entertained of being attacked to-day; but the precautions he had taken, and the dispositions he had made, prevented.

"God preserve your Highness many years.

"EL CONDE DE BELVEDER."

"*Lerma, Nov.* 10, 1808."

The Supreme Junta of Government, which, to avoid every unfortunate accident, had previously adopted the most prudent measures, by sending the division of Estramadura, under Major-General Don Josef Heredia, and giving express notice to all the Generals on the right, in order that they might continue their movements, has to-day given the strictest orders that a most powerful reinforcement shall be sent to the said division, well provided with artillery, ammunition, and provisions, as also that whatever assistance may be necessary, shall be sent to the other Generals of the Army. Hence we have a firmly founded hope, that the enemy, far from having cause to boast of having been able to advance to Burgos, will be punished for his temerity and presumption; and, if it be true, as asserted by some accounts from the frontiers, that the Emperor of the French wishes to be a witness of the conduct of his Generals and troops in Spain, it is also to be hoped, that the brave defenders of their country will aspire to the glory of obliging him to fly with the same precipitation, as they forced his brother Joseph to abandon the Throne and Court, which he so vainly imagined that he had usurped.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE MADRID GAZETTE OF THE 15TH NOVEMBER.

ARANJUEZ, Nov. 14.—The Lieut.-Gen. Don Joaquim Blake has addressed the following dispatches, dated the 7th and 8th inst. to the Secretary of State for the War Department:—

"MOST EXCELLENT SIR,

"In order to effect the concentration of my forces, important on all occasions, and particularly so under the circumstances of my being attacked by a force so decisively superior, and to approximate the only road by which I could receive the requisite supplies—I, on the 3d, resolved to rally my division, including that of the North. They were all united except the 2d division of Gallicia, and a part of the troops of Affaria, forming a corps under the command of his Excellency Don Vicente Acevedo, which was attacked on the 3d by the enemy with superior forces, between Llanteno and Menagarni; and though they were vigorously opposed, took a position between the said corps of Senor Acevedo and the army, to prevent the junction of that division with my army. This information I obtained early on the morning of the 4th, which placed me under the necessity of making an attack on the enemy to frustrate his design, and therefore directed the third division under the command of Brigadier-Gen. Don Francisco Riquelme, united to one of the Asturias, commanded by the Camp Marshal Don Gregorio Quires, to meet the enemy, who were intercepting the pass to the corps of Acevedo, and to attack him; the fourth division and the van-guard I ordered to march to Valmaseda, for the purpose of fighting such detached forces as they should meet; whilst the first and the reserve were to remain with me at Gordejuela, to cut off the communication between the various French divisions; and finally, that of the north and a general reserve were to remain stationed in the Beron.

"At the very moment my troops began their march I received advice, that the corps under Senor Acevedo had

succeeded in changing its position, taking one tolerably eligible between Gordejuela, Valmaseda, and Orrantia, though much overawed by a numerous host occupied in observing his motions. This change of position on the part of Senor Acevedo induced me to make some alteration in my own; and in effect, the troops under the Commanders Quiros and Riquelme, received orders to attack that part of the enemy which appeared, and was by peasants reported to be at Arciniego, whilst the main body must have been at Orrantia, where I proposed to dislodge them with the first division, the van-guard, and the reserve; whilst the fourth, which provisionally is under the command of the Brigade-General Don Estevan Porlier, the Marquis del Portazgo being indisposed, was to follow its original destination to Valmaseda, with instructions, however, not to risk an attack, if they should be over-matched in force.

"I know not what motive to attribute the resolution which the French took of removing their corps from Acevedo: but certainly in Orrantia and Arciniego we found only advice, that the French had effected their retreat from that place during the night, by which means the several divisions which it was our intention to liberate, were safely re-united with us; the fourth has been still more fortunate than the rest; for, arriving near Valmaseda, where the enemy was 7000 men strong, under the General of Division Villat, they attacked him with great vigour, dislodged him from the place, and pursued him to the distance of a league, where he stopped, the night having come on. Their flight was made in the greatest disorder, and they sustained a considerable loss in killed and wounded; we also took 40 prisoners. They also left in our possession a four-pounder, two waggons with ammunition in a state of service; five cars, with provisions and equipage belonging to their General Officers, together with the papers belonging to them, and a vast quantity of other spoils. This brilliant action was chiefly due to the celerity and ardent zeal displayed by some Asturian corps, and by the second division of Gallicia, who poured down on Valmaseda the moment they saw the risk into which the fourth division had fallen, by which means they have acquired an indisputable claim to the public esteem of their countrymen, which, however, is no less due to all our inimitable warriors, who have ever since the 23d, endured with fortitude privations of every description, and the intemperature of severe weather, without great coats, in great part without clothes, and absolutely barefoot, and what is more, without having a morsel to eat for whole days, lending their services with ardour to extreme fatigue, all along, without one murmur of complaint or disgust. All I can perceive in them, is an unabated desire of washing the enemy's guilt in his blood at the hazard of their own lives.

"I recommend them all to the consideration of your Excellency, for the information of his Majesty. Which may God preserve with your Excellency.

Valmaseda, Nov. 7. "JOAQUIM BLAKE."

"MOST EXCELLENT SIR,

"Without having any positive advice of the strength and situation of the enemy, and being under the indispedsible necessity of procuring it, for the direction of my own operations, I yesterday marched with the first and second division forward to Guenes, and gave orders to the vanguard to advance over Gordejuela, towards Sodupe. The corps which I led on soon fell in with a division of four French regiments, 8800 strong, and a fire was opened on both sides, which lasted the whole of the day, without any advantage resulting from it to either side. At dusk the enemy fell somewhat back, and we suspended the movements from the right to the left, by which we had been preparing a fresh attack in a new direction.

"We should have begun it this morning, with strong hopes of a successful issue, if the excessive rigour of the preceding night, and the endurance of hunger and incredible fatigue of the troops, had not obliged me to afford them some relief; in consequence of which I moved them to the present general quarters, a short time before daybreak.

"The enemy's strength we have learned from the declarations of some prisoners, as also that the action had been directed by Marshal Lefebvre. I know that the van-guard was attacked by 5000 men; and that after having with their usual gallantry received them, the night put an end to the action.

"All this I communicate to you for the information of his Majesty, begging that you will recommend the gallantry, firmness, patience under fatigue, privations, and singular enthusiasm manifested for the good of the country, by the generals, chiefs, officers, and the troops.

"I must not omit, that among the wounded is Capt. Birch, in the service of his Britannic Majesty, an Officer of equal skill and zeal, who would not quit the field until he was obliged to follow the troops. The Lieut.-Col. Carrol, who has been in our army these three months, was also determined to assist in all our actions, in which he signalized his intrepidity by example. May God preserve your Excellency. "JOAQUIN BLAKE."

"*Quarters-general of Valmaseda, the 8th Nov. 1808.*"

ARANJUEZ, Nov. 17.—Lieut.-Gen. Blake, in a dispatch from Espinosa, dated the 10th inst. says, that seeing the impossibility of maintaining himself in Biscay, from the scarcity already felt of the means of subsistence, he had determined to fall back with his army from that country, in order to procure a supply of provisions, and give some repose to the troops. As he was on the point of executing this determination, the enemy, between 14 and 15,000 men, appeared in front of Valmaseda, where the first and second divisions, and also the Asturian troops, were posted. He, therefore, ordered some troops to occupy the defensive positions, as if he intended to maintain possession of the town; and, after making a slight and apparent defence, to fall back instantly upon the rest who were filing off towards Nava. At the same moment, the third division, which was posted at Orrantia, was attacked by a very considerable force, with the intention, undoubtedly, of cutting off their retreat to Nava. But the enemy being repulsed with much loss by this division, they effected a junction with the other corps at Nava, and the whole filed off to Espinosa de los Monteros: the corps of the north bringing up the rear, under the command of Brigadier Count de Roman.—Gen. Blake, in a dispatch dated the 11th, states, that on the 9th inst. at noon, his army was attacked by a superior force; but that the troops, Generals, and Officers exerted themselves with such gallantry, that they not only maintained their positions till an hour after dark, but repulsed the enemy at every point. The latter considerably augmented their force with fresh troops on the following day, and availing themselves of their very great superiority, and the lassitude naturally produced in our troops by the glorious engagement of the preceding day, did us some mischief on the left. The centre and right fell back in the direction of St. Andero, and established themselves at Reynosa, where they are concentrating, as was previously intended (and where the Marquis de la Romana, who is to command, now is), in order to return and resume the attack with greater ardour. The General speaks in the highest terms of the gallantry and steadiness of every man belonging to the army, in the various and numerous conflicts in which

they were engaged; and though he has not yet transmitted the details of any of these actions, he informs us with the utmost regret, that of the Officers, whose gallantry has crowned them with glory, he has to mention in the number of the slain the brave Field-Marshal Don Gregorio Quiros, and that of the wounded his Excellency Capt.-Gen. D. Vincente Acevedo, the Chief of Squadron D. Cayetano Valdes, and Brigadiers Count de St. Roman and D. Francisco Riquelme.

ROYAL DECREE, ADDRESSED BY THE SUPREME GOVERNING JUNTA TO ALL THE COUNCILS.

This decree begins with an acknowledgment of the patient endurance of the numberless evils which resulted from the Treaty of Alliance with France in 1796. It notices the ambitious and destructive system of the French Government, from the period of the Directory to the Consulate and the Empire; the usurpations of the French Ruler in Europe; the total neglect with which the interests of Spain were treated by France in her conventions with other States; the personal indignities offered to Princes connected with her Royal Family; the total want of all reciprocity, which produced no change in the determination of Spain religiously to observe all the stipulations of her alliance with France. It then proceeds to recount all the grievances of which Spain has to complain—the dethronement of the King of the Two Sicilies; the cession of the island of Trinidad; the *independence of Portugal* threatened; the recession of Louisiana, and the transferring it to a third power without the knowledge or consent of Spain; the despoiling of the States of Parma, &c. After having effected the depression of Spain, the plots, the atrocious perfidies, and the treacherous intrigues of the French Emperor, instituted with a view to the subjugation of that country, are then fully developed, though nothing new is disclosed. The infamous character of the favourite, Don Manuel Godoy, is unequivocally exposed; and the proscription of the Royal Family, after forcing them to sign at Bayonne an illegal and illusory renunciation of the throne, is dwelt upon in terms of just indignation. The Decree concludes with a declaration, that the Junta "have taken the oath, in the most solemn manner, not to listen to or accept any proposal for peace, unless their beloved Sovereign, Ferdinand VII. be restored to his throne, and unless the absolute integrity of Spain and her Americas be stipulated as an indispensable condition, without the dismemberment of any the smallest portion of her territory."

THE SUPREME JUNTA'S ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE.

The Supreme Government of Spain has at last drawn up an Address to the People, containing a statement of the situation of the country, of the duties imposed upon the Government, of the measures adopted or to be adopted for the discharge of them, and of the purposes to which the efforts of Government and People should be directed. The substance of this Address is as follows:—It begins with a rapid but striking picture of the fallen state of Spain previous to the revolution, occasioned, as they truly state, by a "tyranny of twenty years, exercised by the most incapable hands ever known among mankind." They proceed to state the effect of this disgraceful subjection, and declaim on the treachery with which the French endeavoured to turn it to their advantage. They speak with exultation of the insurrection, and with applause of the Provincial Juntas; but the institution of the Supreme Junta, under all its circumstances, is stated to be more glorious, as it was a more arduous task than a victory. They then [illegible] their first object in point of time to be the expulsion [illegible] and the application of constancy and pru[illegible]poses, to which impetuosity and va[illegible] properly directed, but which alone they [illegible] complete. They then give a short but [illegible] the contest in which they are engaged; and far from depreciating the resources or undervaluing the advantages of Bonaparte, acknowledge his gigantic power, and dwell with much force on the certainty of assistance from the other Continental Powers against it. They add, however, that they must act as if depending solely and entirely on their own efforts, and urge the necessity of raising 500,000 infantry and 50,000 cavalry, pledging themselves not to relax in their endeavours till they have completed that number. They dwell on the saving of the royal expences, and the sources which the immediate confiscation of the Favourite's and other treacherous Spaniards' property will supply; and though they acknowledge the pecuniary aid of Great Britain with gratitude, they disdain the notion of a subsidy, and urge the necessity of immediately taking measures for the repayment of such magnificent loans "with that reciprocity and decorum with belong to great and powerful nations. The Spanish Monarchy," they add, "must not remain in this respect with any feeling of inequality or dependence on any of her Allies;" and they promise a faithful and undisguised account of the public revenue and expences. They then proceed to the second object, second in time, though not in importance,—the new Government. They declare the wishes of the young King to be the same as their own, and acknowledge that, in restoring the ancient rights of the nation, in establishing fundamental laws on sound bases, in providing against their violation or neglect, and in devising *checks upon arbitrary authority*, they are only completing the task *he had chalked out for his Government*, and fulfilling the *patriotic wishes* which he left as a legacy to the nation. It then proceeds to exhort the people to take an interest in their affairs; far from shunning advice, it seeks and desires that of the community. It wishes to consult them on their ancient laws; on the alterations which the differ[illegible]e of times and circumstances may exact; on the means [illegible]mproving the administration of justice, and the system of education, with various other projects equally benevolent and equally wise. The rest of this paper consists of an eloquent contrast of the history and principles of the two revolutions of France and Spain, and of a spirited congratulation to the people of Spain on the prospect of liberty and prosperity, which their own valour and patriotism have opened to the nation. Having thus stated the objects of their attention, they solicit the confidence of their countrymen, aware, that without it they can do nothing, and assured, that from the purity of their motives they cannot fail to deserve it.

This interesting Paper bears the date of Aranjuez, 26th October, and was approved of by the Junta on the 10th of November.

CORUNNA, Nov. 23.—Our army immediately after its organization marched to the defence of the country, and occupied the heights of Reynosa, from which it advanced under continual fighting into Biscay, and took post three leagues from Durango. The exertions of our army attracted the attention of the enemy, who attacked our troops in the above position, and from his vast superiority in number, compelled them to fall back to Valmaseda, as we have already published. Since the 31st of last month, when that retrogade movement was performed, we have not received any official accounts, but Mr. Brodrick, General in the British service, has received an express from the army, and communicated to us the following intelligence:—On the 5th, Gen. Blake attacked the French, defeated and pursued them beyond Valmesada and Urnalia. On the 7th, Gen. Blake attacked the enemy in Guenos and moved farther on, but the centre of his army not having kept pace with the wings, he resumed the position of Valmaseda. On the 8th, his rear was engaged; on the 10th, the ene-

my attacked our army in Espinosa with double its strength; the action lasted from one in the afternoon till fall at night, and remained undecided, or was rather in our favour. On the 11th, the enemy renewed the attack, and having occupied the road by which our troops were to retreat, part of our army began to be dispersed. On the 12th, Gen. Blake retreated to Reynosa, to rally his army; in this position he was again attacked by the enemy with fresh and superior forces, and our army fell back to a valley in the vicinity of St. Andero. The officer who communicates this intelligence, speaks in terms of the highest praise of our troops, and their worthy Commander: they fought seven successive severe actions, and a stronger proof than this cannot possibly be given of their persevering valour. The Supreme Council of the Kingdom makes no doubt but that our army, after it shall have again completely rallied, will attack and pursue the enemy, a column of from 7 to 8000 men, having actually penetrated into the plain of Reynosa, by the way of Burgos. In order to prevent any accident that might happen, orders have been given to fortify the point of Sanabua. The Marquis de Valledores, was also to march to the frontiers with all the troops found in the province, and an army of reserve is to be immediately formed, which is to join the troops of his Britannic Majesty, who are destined for the defence of this country. The subscription which has been set on foot for the benefit of the English women who follow the army, amounts this day to 1000 rials.—(*Corunna Diary, Nov. 23.*)

Corunna, Nov. 24.—The guide Castro arrived in the night of the 22d: we are apprised of the situation of the Generals and their armies up to the 13th inst. On the 7th, he was with Signor Castanos at Tudela. The army of Arragon was quartered in Las Cinco Villas, and were preparing to attack the enemy in Pampeluna. Seignor Castanos, with the army of Andalusia, had an affair at Logrono, in consequence of that of Castile having fallen back. On the 10th, the guide was with Count Belveder, at Burgos, where he had 5000 men. The French were in the environs of that city, and by the 13th they had actually entered Aguilar de Campo, and the army of Belveder fell back upon Aranda de Duero. The enemy's column, which had advanced, subsequently retreated to Burgos. He adds that our loss has been very inconsiderable, and that on the 10th we left 7000 Frenchmen dead on the field at Espinosa. He met the first division of the English at Baneza, and says that the rest were proceeding by forced marches.

Nov. 26.—The retreat of our army to Leon defeats all the designs of the enemy, who, the instant they hear of our junction with the English army, and of the reinforcements which we shall send off with the least possible delay, to make it still more formidable, will abandon all the extent of country they have occupied, if they wish to avoid being surrounded and compelled to surrender. This point of union was the only one we ought to have taken, in case the enemy should penetrate by way of Burgos, owing to our want of cavalry to engage them in the plains. But by the junction of the two armies we shall muster a very respectable body of cavalry; our forces will be organized, and a junction effected without delay, and then, scouring the plains we will proceed direct to dislodge them from Burgos, and the extent of territory which they occupy from that city as far as Vidasoa. Courage and constancy, therefore—and let us make every exertion to prevent reinforcements from being retarded for an instant.

GERMANY.

Vienna, Nov. 2.—By a courier who arrived here a few days since from Constantinople, intelligence has been received, that Mr. Adair reached the Dardanelles on the 10th October, and immediately commenced negotiations, tending to the speedy restoration of peace between England and the Sublime Porte. It has been observed, for some time past, that the English ships of war which are cruizing in the Archipelago, allow Turkish vessels to pass unmolested, and do not in the least obstruct the intercouse of trade.

SWEDEN.

Stockholm, Nov. 11.—His Royal Majesty has received the following Report from the General in Chief of the Finnish Army; including a Report from Colonel Sandels, Chief of Brigade, touching a severe battle which has been fought in the vicinity of Idensalmi:—

"Since the armistice, concluded between the Swedish and Russian armies, was declared to be at an end, arrived yesterday by a Russian Officer, from Lieut.-Gen. Tutschkoff, with the intimation, that hostilities would be immediately commenced. Soon after I received a report, that my advanced posts had been attacked by the Russians, and compelled by the enemy's great superiority in number to fall back to Wirda-bridge, which was soon after broke down; after the troops had crossed it. A violent cannonade was immediately commenced by the enemy from the neighbouring heights, which was vigorously returned from our side, and Prince Dolgorucki, who commanded the Russian van, was mortally wounded at the beginning of the action, and expired soon after. In the mean time the enemy's chasseurs and infantry crossed the bridge, which they had repaired, formed in line, advanced against our troops, notwithstanding the vigorous cannonade, which was kept up from our batteries, which they attempted to carry, but were repulsed by our troops with the utmost intrepidity and valour, and pursued as far as Wirda-bridge. In this action the enemy's loss consisted in 360 men killed and wounded, and 70 taken prisoners, among whom are two Field Officers. According to the accounts of the prisoners, the enemy's force, in the above affair, which lasted six hours, exceeded 6000 men, commanded by Lieut.-Gen. Tutschoff, and under him, by Generals Raekmonoff, Prince Dolgorucki, and Alexeijeff. At the close of the action, the Russian commanding General proposed a suspension of hostilies for 24 hours, to bury his dead, which I was the more ready to grant, as our loss was also considerable, consisting of 30 killed, and 250 wounded.

"J. Sandels, Chief of Brigade."

"*Brigade-quarters, Idensalmi, the 28th Oct.* 1808."

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

John Shaddock and John Popham, two poor fishermen, went out to the harbour's mouth of Clovelly, in Devonshire, in a small boat, about 13 feet long, with their nets and tackle, to fish for herrings, on Monday morning, the 14th ult. While fishing, a violent gale of wind came on from the southward, which blew them out to sea; on their endeavouring to pull in, they lost one of their oars, and having but one left, the boat became unmanageable, and they were left to the mercy of the sea. After being out four days and three nights, in tempestuous weather, with-

out any thing to eat or drink, they were taken up by the [illegible]ft, Capt. G. Hodgson, bound from Dublin to Bristol, [illegible]most perishing with hunger and fatigue; their legs were [illegible]swollen to an amazing size, and their skin in several places was completely peeled off by the action of the sea-water.

The following occurrence has occasioned much noise in the parish of Clifton, where it has taken place; and, although intended as a joke, has already taken a more serious turn:—An altercation having taken place between the cook and the housemaid, in a respectable family, and the latter having a smattering of the French language, was accused by the former, with whom she slept, of being a Frenchman in female attire, and spy of Bonaparte. The consequence was that the poor girl was obliged to undergo a formal examination; which has had such an effect upon her as to occasion a severe illness. The Magistrates are said to have expressed their determination to punish the propagators of the scandal; in consequence of which the parties concerned have absconded.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER.

The mild open weather through the month has been favourable to the latter sown Wheats; indeed more promising plants in general have seldom been seen in all the principal Corn Districts. The prices of wheat are down, from the large quantities that are usually brought to market at this season; but the samples do not improve, particularly those from the Northern Counties. Clover Seed, both red and white, rises in most parts to a fair average produce. The Turnip Counties run so short of their usual winter feed, that from 3l. to 10l. per acre are given for slight crops. Hay, in consequence of this deficiency, is dearer, particularly in the grazing countries; but lean stock of all kinds have had a fall, from the same cause. Smithfield has continued to receive a full supply, at nearly last month's prices. The Hop markets have experienced but little variation; but the Wool trade is considerably brisker, and yields more money for long as well as short fleeces.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Whitehall, November 29.

The King, taking into his royal consideration the zeal, courage and perseverance of the late George Nicholas Hardinge, Esq. Captain of his Majesty's frigate San Fiorenzo, manifested by him upon divers occasions, but more especially in the capture of the Dutch war brig Atalanta, off the Texel, after a desperate conflict, in the night of the 31st March 1804, by the successful enterprize of boarding and of cutting out that vessel, himself at the head of the party in the boats, and the first man who boarded her; and also in the signal and gallant service of commencing three successive engagements between his Majesty's frigate San Fiorenzo and La Piedmontaise, a French frigate, off Ceylon, in March last, notwithstanding the great disparity of the force between the said frigates, that of the enemy carrying 50 guns, and mustering 560 men, when his Majesty's frigate carried only 38 guns, and mustered 186 men, including officers; a conflict terminated in the capture of the enemy's frigate, but, unfortunately, in the death of the said Captain Hardinge, who fell with glory in the last of the said three actions; his Majesty has been graciously pleased, in commemoration thereof, to grant his Royal licence and permission, that the male descendants of the late Nicholas Hardinge, Esq. paternal grandfather of the said Captain George Nicholas Hardinge, who died without issue, may bear for ever hereafter, to the armorial ensigns of their family, the following honourable augmentations, viz. To the Arms of Hardinge (being "On a Cheveron fimbriated Three Escallops"), a Chief wavy, thereon a dismasted French Frigate, with her Colours struck, towed by an English Frigate; and, for an additional Crest (that of Hardinge being "A Mitre charged with a Cheveron, as in the Arms,") the following, viz. A Hand couped above the Wrist, grasping the Sword of a British Naval Officer, erect, surmounting a Dutch and a French Flag in Saltire, on the former inscribed "Atalanta," on the latter "Piedmontaise," the Blade of the Sword passing through a Wreath of Laurel near the Point, and, a little below, through another of Cypress, with this motto "Posterea Laude Recens;" provided such honourable augmentations be first duly exemplified, according to the Laws of Arms, and recorded in the Herald's Office: And also to order, that this his Majesty's concession and especial mark of his Royal favour, be registered in his College of Arms.

[This Gazette contains also an account of the capture of the General Ernouf French privateer, of 16 guns and 58 men, by the Arethusa, Captain Mends.]

BANKRUPTS.

John Thomas, Liverpool, victualler, to surrender Jan. 4, 5, 10, at eleven, at the Globe Tavern, Liverpool. Attorney, Mr. Kidd, Liverpool.

Joseph Smith, Newport, coal-merchant, Dec. 12, 13, Jan. 10, at eleven, at the Bush Tavern, Bristol. Attorney, Mr. J. H. Frankis, Bristol.

David Isaac, Liverpool, slopseller, Jan. 2, 3, 10, at one, at the Globe Tavern, Liverpool. Attornies, Messrs. Griffith and Hinde, Liverpool.

Thomas Lansdown, Wiveliscombe, Somerset, clothier, Dec. 23, 24, Jan. 10, at ten, at the White Hart Inn, Milverton. Attorney, Mr. Boucher, Wiveliscombe.

Benjamin Dewson, jun. Wolverhampton, japanner, Dec. 12, at four, 13, Jan. 3, at eleven, at the Jervingham Arms Inn, Shiffnall, Salop. Attorney, Mr. Biddle, Wolverhampton.

Thomas Gibbons, Deritend, Warwick, grocer, Dec. 13, 14, Jan. 10, at eleven, at the Swan Tavern, Birmingham. Attorney, Mr. Stubbs, Birmingham.

Wm. Wilson, Shakespeare-walk, Shadwell, Dec. 3, 20, Jan. 10, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Carter, Staple-Inn.

George Brown, Shoreditch, mercer, Dec. 3, 13, Jan. 10, at eleven, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Walton, Girdlers'-hall.

Hannah Sackett, Ramsgate, innkeeper, Dec. 3, 13, Jan. 10, at eleven, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Berridges, Hatton-garden.

DIVIDENDS.

Dec. 22. J. Lockier, Bristol, upholder.—Dec. 27. T. Cooke, Gloucester, merchant.—Dec. 23. G. and W. Losh and J. Robinson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, iron-manufacturers.—Dec. 22. J. Green, Burton, Yorkshire, cotton-spinner.—Dec. 23. J. Kay, J. Watson, sen. P. Catterall, and D. Ainsworth, Preston, machine-makers.—Dec. 24. C. L. Lund, Old Jewry, factor.—Dec. 23. R. Allcroft, Sheffield, scissor-manufacturer. Dec. 21. W. Thompson, Manchester, grocer.—Dec. 13. J. Wilkins and T. Lacey, Basinghall-street, factors.—Jan. 3. J. Jackson, Sculcoates, Yorkshire, cabinet-maker.—Dec. 27. J. Dutton, Buwardsley, Cheshire, cheesefactor.—G. Aungier, Kent-road, distiller. Dec. 20. T. Tarden, St Michael's-alley, Cornhill, insurance-broker.—Dec. 31. W. Cowperthwait, Old Fish-street, grocer.—Jan. 24. W. Watson, Great Cambridge-street, Hackney-road, builder.—Feb. 7. W. Altham, Tokenhouse-yard, broker.—Jan. 24. J. Kennion, sen. and J. Kennion, jun. of Nicholas-lane, brokers. Dec. 23. F. Fenton, Sheffield, merchant.—Dec. 29. N. Perkins, sen. and N. Perkins, jun. Eastington, Gloucester, clothiers.—Dec. 31. J. Mills, Wood within Saddleworth, Yorkshire, dyer.

CERTIFICATES—Dec. 20.

J. Smith, Wakefield, hatter.—W. Brewer, Bath Pool Mills, miller.—J. Bateman, Wike, Yorkshire, wol-

ton-manufacturer.—M. Solomon, Little Alie-street, Goodman's-fields, merchant.—D. Moore, Lenham, Kent, dealer.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTS.

W. Stanley, Manchester, innkeeper, to surrender Dec. 19, 20, Jan. 14, at two, at the Star Inn, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Robinson, Manchester.

Wm. Dean, Kenton-street, Russell-square, shopkeeper, Dec. 6, 13, Jan. 14, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Henson, Dorset-street, Salisbury-square.

T. Crouch, Cuckfield, Sussex, grocer, Dec. 6, 20, Jan. 14, at ten, at Guildhall, London. Attorney, Mr. Stone, Tunbridge-Wells, Kent.

G. and A. Remington, Oxford-street, cabinet-makers, Dec. 8, 17, at ten, Jan. 14, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Rosser, Red Lion-square.

J. Pass, Manchester, butcher, Dec. 23, 24, Jan. 14, at eleven, at the Griffin, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Woodcock, Bury.

W. Titley and W. Greenwood, Leeds, mercers, Dec. 21, at three, Dec. 22, Jan. 14, at eleven, at the Crown Inn, Stone, Staffordshire. Attorney, Mr. Astbury, Stone, Staffordshire.

J. Capper and J. Bathgate, Smedley-Hall, Cheetham, Lancashire, victuallers, Dec. 22, 23, Jan. 14, at two, at the Bridgewater Arms, Manchester. Attornies, R. R. and C. Jackson, Manchester.

C. and E. Kenworthy, Stainland, Yorkshire, cotton-spinners, Dec. 19, 20, Jan. 14, at two, at the Palace Inn, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Edge, St. Ann's-alley, Manchester.

J. Dicas, Stockport, Cheshire, money-scrivener, Dec. 14, 15, Jan. 14, at eleven, at the Coach and Horses Inn, Chester. Attorney, Mr. Huxley, Temple, London.

L. Alexander, Halifax, Yorkshire, money-scrivener, Dec. 22, 23, at the Old Cock Inn, Halifax, Jan. 14, at the George Inn, Huddersfield, at ten. Attorney, Mr. Greenwood, Huddersfield.

J. Bound, Salford, Lancashire, dealer, Dec. 22, 23, Jan. 14, at three, at the Palace Inn, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Milne, Manchester.

J. Nield, Manchester, grocer, Dec. 19, 20, Jan. 14, at two, at the White Lion Inn, Hanging-ditch, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Milne, Manchester.

G. Davis, Barnard Castle, Durham, cotton-manufacturer, Dec. 12, at two, 13, at eleven, at the King's Head Inn, Barnard Castle, Jan. 14, at twelve, at the Talbot, Bishop Auckland, Durham. Attorney, Mr. Wheldon, Barnard Castle, Durham.

T. Wood, Rochdale, Lancashire, stationer, Dec. 26, at four, 27, at eleven, Jan. 14, at four, at the Blue Ball Inn, Rochdale. Attornies, Messrs. Shuttleworths, Rochdale.

DIVIDENDS.

Jan. 7. W. Lucas, Cheapside, warehouseman.—Jan. 25. W. Morris, Manchester, leather-seller.—Jan. 7. T. Elliot, Bedford-street, Covent-garden, taylor.—Dec. 6. B. Travers and J. Esdaile, jun. Queen-street, Cheapside, sugar-dealers.—Dec. 24. R. Green, Bishopsgate-street Within, jeweller and silversmith.—Dec. 24. W. Bushy and I. Hill, Strand, hatters.—Dec. 24. Charles Mills, Colonade, Russell-square, baker.—Dec. 31. E. Wilson, St. James's-street, hatter.—Dec. 24. W. Parr, Lower Shadwell, grocer.—Dec. 24. T. Maxfield, Lewis, grocer.—Dec. 24. R. Dennett, Greek-street, Soho, cheesemonger.—Dec. 24. W. Goodwin, Lambeth, timber-merchant.—Dec. 27. S. Bally, Bristol, taylor.—Feb. 7. C. Wright, Aldgate, tobacconist, —Feb. 7. A. Arbuthnott and R. Bracken, Philpot-lane, London, merchants.—Dec. 13. John Peacock, Kingston-upon-Hull, merchant.—Dec. 24. R. Williams, Oxford-street, furrier.—Jan. 17. R. Dall, Maresfield, Sussex, sadler and harness-maker.—Jan. 21. John Raby, Narrow-street, Limehouse, ship-chandler.—Jan. 7. C. Chard, High Holborn, chemist.—Dec. 6. S. Pears, Bread-street, London, warehouseman, J. Watson, J. Watson, jun. and J. Watson, Preston, cotton-manufacturers.—Dec. 24. T. Crump, Westminster-road, tinman.—Jan. 24. J. Greenwood and W. Grimaldi, Old Bond-street, auctioneers.—Dec. 24. T. Jordan Hookham, Bond-street, bookseller.

CERTIFICATE—DEC. 24.

J. Catley, Harpers, Lancashire, calico-manufacturer.

PRICE OF STOCKS YESTERDAY.

Consols for Op. 66¼. | Red. Ann. 65¼. | Omnium 1 dis.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Communication of a LIVERYMAN OF LONDON, on the epistolary egotism of my LORD MAYOR, came too late for insertion.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, DECEMBER 4.

THE *Bonne Citoyenne*, from Corunna, has brought papers and letters, which contradict the former report of BLAKE's march to San Vincent de la Barquera, and state, that after quitting Reynosa he effected his retreat to Leon. One of the two reports must certainly be entirely false; and it is most probably the last, unless every former account of him was wrong. It was BLAKE's business to avoid a column of the enemy which had got to Aguilar del Campo; but in going to Leon from Reynosa, he must have passed by Aguilar. It is conjectured therefore, that a part of his left wing, which according to the *Madrid Gazette* of the 18th November, was thrown into confusion on the 12th, might have escaped to Leon. All that is known of him with any tolerable certainty is, that he has been retreating and disputing the ground, like a true soldier, eight successive days, from the 12th to the 19th, but through what immediate territory the official accounts must explain. There have been fifty different reports, perplexed with dates and distances, which those who wish to consult them may find, somewhat selected and simplified, under the Foreign Head in this Paper. The long labyrinth of these matters has no interest but for those crooked politicians, the stock-jobbers; and the readers of the *Examiner*, I hope and believe, have very little to do with those gentlemen. It has not yet been discovered, whether Generals MOORE and BAIRD have been able to form a junction; the French are evidently pushing on towards the right, to intercept them if possible. On the other side, CASTANOS is said not only to have maintained his position, but even to have crossed the Ebro and attacked the enemy; but in all probability, if these successes were true, we should be able to obtain readier information from

Spain. The French papers have not arrived to throw any light on the matter. BONAPARTE, I dare say, would have no objection to let CASTANOS gain a post or two on the frontiers, provided he could drive the great wedge of his force into the heart of the country. This has always been his policy. If once he is in possession of the central power, more French troops could easily come to the assistance of the Pyrenees and he himself would fall on the rear of CASTANOS.

The Supreme Junta have at length consented, in their gracious royalty, to publish an account of their policy and proceedings, but I think there can be no hesitation among thinking people to mistrust it's motives after their long and most unjustifiable silence. They say, both at the beginning and at the end of their statement, with a mind evidently uneasy at apology, that they always held it their duty to make known their proceedings. Then why did they not do it before?—An account of their proceedings was as proper two months ago as it is now, but it seems they did not think it so necessary; and let us observe, that *it is not till they want men and money, that they think fit to address the people.* Such are all Inquisitional Governments, whether in the shape of Juntas, Senates, or Parliaments.

Ministers on Thursday night distributed the following Bulletin:—

The following intelligence has this morning been received by Government, brought by the Favourite cutter:—"It appears by dispatches received from Corunna, dated the 23d, and from San Vincente de La Barquera, dated the 19th ult. that the account of Gen. Blake being defeated is confirmed; he was engaged in continual actions from the 4th to the 13th. On the 11th the Asturians, worsted on the left of the French, got possession of a height which covered the road on which they retreated, and they were thrown into great confusion, and Gen. Blake retired to Reynosa, but a French column appearing upon this road from Burgos, he retreated by Solo to San Vincente de la Barquera; there upon the 17th, he had collected near 20,000 of his troops, and the Marquis de la Romana had taken the command, and they would soon be in a state to advance again. The French had occupied St. Andero and Santona—the former on the 16th, and latter on the 20th. But by the exertions of Gen. Leith, all the provisions, and ammunition, and stores sent by this country, had been removed. It appears that part of the army of Estremadura had been defeated near Burgos by the French; but there are no accounts of their having advanced beyond it.—Gen. Moore arrived on the 10th at Salamanca.—Gen. Baird was at Astorga."

A letter received by way of Corunna is said to have reached town, from an English Nobleman of high rank now in Spain, stating a report, that BONAPARTE had returned to Paris, and even adding, that it was supposed he had ordered the French army to evacuate the Spanish territory. Of the probability of the information, respecting the evacuation of Spain, we leave our readers to judge.

By the Heligoland Mail arrived yesterday, letters are received from Hamburgh, stating a report there of the arrival at Paris of NAPOLEON.

Sir H. BURRARD has arrived, and the Chelsea Board will sit again on Tuesday. It is of very little consequence whether they meet again or not: the public would as much respect the decision of a Board of Beef-eaters as such an Assembly.

Private letters from Petersburgh state, that as a part of the arrangements between the Emperors ALEXANDER and NAPOLEON, the Archduke CONSTANTINE is to have the kingdom of Poland; and that certain provinces of Turkey are to be guaranteed by France to the Emperor of RUSSIA.

The Methodist Preacher, *Atkinson*, now in Newgate, for absconding with the money he collected in St. James's parish, conducts himself with the usual impudence of his sect. This was to be expected of one who always preached the utter inefficiency of *good works* as necessary to salvation.—The parishioners of St. James's are not well pleased with the Commissioners for having given this man a confidential situation, when his hypocrisy had long been apparent to the most respectable inhabitants.

The circumstances attending the patronage of *Leverington*, a Rectory in the Isle of Ely, of the value of about 2000l. per annum, are somewhat curious. Dr. Dampier obtained his translation from Rochester, not wholly from his exertions in aid of Mr. Perceval's "No Popery" cry, in the exercise of his episcopal functions, as might reasonably have been imagined, but in great measure from his possessing an accumulation of certain *good things*, which by his promotion would fall to the gift of the Duke of Portland. Besides the See of Rochester, his *golden* prebend at Durham, and his snug sinecure of the Mastership of Sherborne Hospital, became vacant, each of very considerable value. This bargain was mutually advantageous, for the Doctor got an easy diocese, a clear income of eight thousand a-year, a town house in addition to the palace in the country, and an enormous patronage; and the Duke got opportunities of stopping the mouths of *three* claimants, an object particularly desirable before the next meeting of Parliament. By the bye, we doubt not before that time, all the vacancies, many of which are complained of as being of an unusually long standing, will be duly filled. However, the Bishop of Durham interrupted this arrangement, by asserting a right to present to Sherborne Hospital. It seems this preferment is of the annual value of 1500l. and of course, formed a large part of the consideration of the Bishop of Rochester's translation. Pending the squabble, Leverington fell. As Dr. Dampier's confirmation in Ely had been suspended till the Duke and the other Bishop had settled their respective rights, this valuable benefice came to the Premier by virtue of the prerogative of the Crown, though belonging to the patronage of the last mentioned See. We find by the *Gazette*, that it has been given to Dr. Sparke, *the Duke of Rutland's tutor*, who is also Dean of Bristol. How the Duke of Portland and the Bishop of Durham settled their dispute we have not heard; but for the peace of the Church, we are happy to see, by the Bishop of Ely having done homage at the last Levee, that it has at length been adjusted.—(*Morning Chronicle.*)

The Governors of the Founding Hospital have at length consented, that no mother of good character shall in future be refused personal communication with her offspring, upon making respectful application to the Committee; and that she shall be permitted also to visit them at the places of their apprenticeship, with the approbation of their respective masters or mistresses.

The Grand Jury have thrown out the bill against *Miss Pierce*, charged with robbing her female servant, which was, on Wednesday, preferred at the Clerkenwell Session House.

It has been a frequent matter of complaint this season, to which we wonder the Board of Management have not paid some attention, that the play-bills of Drury-lane Theatre are not sent round, as usual, to the houses of the renters and other frequent attenders at the theatre, by which neglect many parties are prevented being made up for a box. The same number of bills are printed on account of the theatre as formerly, which are now vended by the vagabonds about the playhouse; the expence therefore, to the theatre, must be the same, though the advantages must be, evidently, so much less resulting to it from their present circulation. To whom do the perquisites of the first disposition of these bills belong? It would be for the general benefit of the concern, if the perquisites were abolished, and we recommend to the Board of Management to restore the circulation to its former channel, which would have a considerable effect upon the whole prices, as it would afford a facility of communication of the dramatic arrangements to those who are most in the habits of making up parties for whole boxes.

Mr. Siddons, it is said, has a new Drama in preparation. If he takes it from the German or elsewhere, it is to be hoped that he will acknowledge the obligation, and not leave the public to discover the fact, as he did in *Time's a Tell-tale*.

FASHIONS FOR DECEMBER.

The Spanish costume, which now so universally prevails, is in itself most attractive and graceful; the Spanish hat is of most becoming and simple construction. All the distinguishing points of the Spanish costume are very striking, and possess much airiness and grace, and are consequently best calculated for that higher order of decoration which should distinguish the evening or full dress. We observe several elegant improvements in the mantle, cloak, and pelisse; and amidst the diversity which presents itself, the following are the most select and elegant:—Cloaks or mantles of grass green or purple velvet, or of fine Vigonia or Merino cloth, lined throughout with sarsenet, and trimmed with spotted ermine, or other fur. The scarlet mantle is frequently ornamented with borders of black velvet in the Tuscan style, with full collars to correspond. Pelisses, which are alternately formed of velvet cloth or sarsenets, admit also of much variety in their construction; some are formed plain, with high full collars, and clasps of gold or cut steel confine them in front from the throat to the feet; others have large fancy capes, or a sort of scapulaires trimmed with ermine, falling over the shoulders. The opera mantle is usually worn short and cut to a point behind; if of white satin, it is trimmed with gossamer fur or swansdown; if of cloth, with spotted ermine or blue fox. White tippets are not so general as last season. The Russian bonnet, of cloth or velvet, ornamented with chenille, or curled floss trimming, is exceedingly unique and elegant. Morning robes are formed either in simple French wraps, sitting close to the form, or in round gowns of plain muslin or cambric, with high waist of imperial knotted muslin, buttoned down the back, and worn with a high vandyke ruff of muslin or lace, fastened in front of the throat with a broach of jewellery.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 34.

A memento mori to the memory of the Siege of Saint Quintin.—A word or two of remonstrance to the better race of Critics.—The new Drama of Venoni or the Novice of Saint Mark.—It's plot and characters in the common style of romance.—The interest of it's earlier scenes, and decline of it's last.—Mr. Elliston in the hero, and Mrs. H. Siddons in the heroine.—The scale of melancholy expression in stage faces.

DRURY-LANE.

It is very odd the daily Papers take no notice of the sudden dissolution of that magnanimous melo-drama, the *Siege of St. Quintin*. Some of them assured us it was a very seasonable and sightly production—a very neat production, with excellent sentiments—a very patriotic, inspiring, and promising production. So it died in nine days. Such are the critical physicians who attend our distempered dramatists, our "living deadmen." They flatter them with long life; they call the flush of consumption, promise; and the nonsense of delirium, fine sentiment; and as sure as the patient has passed a disturbed and doubtful night, they issue out bulletins in the morning announcing his "unmixed" health and "unbounded" vivacity. In the mean time, a reasonable observer, who sees the true state of the case and who does not wish the neighbourhood to be infected, walks out with a decent silence, and looks after the grave. It was in vain that the friends of the author tried to resuscitate the last melo-drama, it was in vain that the magic singer warbled his charms over it, that the retainers and the *undertakers in disguise* dressed it in all it's fond finery, nay, that Sheridan himself, as they report, tried to animate it by inflating it's lungs. I thought it was a *mortuum caput*, and so it was. For the last few days it merely lay in state; the crowd gradually retired; the curtain closed; the physicians looked foolish: it was all over. In short, to drop this deadly metaphor, the fate of that wretched piece should be a warning to the careless or corrupt critics of the day, how they risk their own reputation with the public by praising what the public themselves soon learn to despise. There are one or two critics at present, whose classical and general taste must be met with a frank admiration by every brother critic who aspires to such a taste himself; but these gentlemen, who have so true a relish of the best writers in more languages than one, are continually offering violence to one's literary attachment by recommending to the

town the most fantastic and flippant of our modern dramas, and recommending them too, as I have heard and as indeed is apparent from the pain with which they do it, purely because they may chance to be slightly acquainted with the authors. This reason is still more likely, as there are one or two dramatists, of very little if any inferiority to their brethren, whom they treat with a constant and just, but a most disproportionate severity. Now it is difficult, I allow, to speak one's mind of old acquaintances, and under certain circumstances we may have no alternative but to be *silent*, as should have been the case, for instance, if Boswell had written a play, and Johnson, his old acquaintance, had been the critic. But let these gentlemen I have mentioned ask themselves, whether they have sought out the dramatists or the dramatists them,—whether it is themselves who are honoured by the acquaintance of the dramatists, or the dramatists who are honoured by theirs —whether, in short, they could not have dispensed, in every proper and manly sense of the world, with the necessity of contradicting their own real judgment and taste. It is amazing to me, that there should be any literary sympathy between dramatists, who have neither wit nor English, and critics who have both and much besides. One of the most accomplished wits of the day is indignant with Scaliger for wishing to substitute in Horace one single epithet for another, and thinks it "little short of *high treason* against the true spirit of poetry."* I wonder what *this writer* thinks in his heart of all that trash and refuse, not the *reliquiæ Danaum* certainly, but the refuse of O'Keefe and others, which has been substituted in our times for Congreve, for Fletcher, and for Massinger. If Scaliger's epithet is high treason, I think our modern dramatists should go to the block at once, unless indeed it would be "carrying wood to the forest."

The Drury-lane Managers are quick if they are not judicious. To the *Siege of Saint Quintin* has succeeded, this last week, a new drama, imitated from a favourite French piece, and called *Venoni, or the Novice of Saint Mark*. A title is not much, but as *Venoni* does not appear to have been the original name of the piece, or rather whether it was so or not, it is somewhat injudicious in the imitator to remind us, by a mere name, of one of the most simple, affecting, and beautifully dramatic stories in the English language, and thus to raise comparisons with the present state of the drama, not at all advantageous to it even in its least artificial taste.

The plot has been so well detailed in a Morning Paper, that my Readers may reasonably excuse me from a new analysis:—

"*Venoni* is a young Italian of rank and wealth, betrothed to *Josepha*, a lady of suitable condition. Her charms have been viewed with a lascivious eye by the *Prior of St. Mark's*; she has been placed by her parents in the Convent of St. Ursula, in order that the example of the Nuns may induce her to embrace a religious life; and this arrangement has been effected by the advice of the *Prior*, who, by his vile flatteries, not only influences the parents of *Josepha*, but works upon *Venoni's* mind, already shattered by the despair of ill-fated love. The crafty Friar determines to possess himself of his victim's fortune, prevails upon him to become a Novice in the Monastery, and resolves to rid himself of a rival so troublesome and so much injured, by immuring him alive in a subterraneous cell. *Josepha*, inflexible in virtue, threatens to betray the *Prior's* attempts upon her chastity, and the *Prior* by connivance with the *Ursuline Abbess*, incloses the maiden in a vault divided only by a wall from the dungeon destined for *Venoni*. A letter, containing a disclosure of the design against *Venoni's* life, falls into the hands of *Michael*, a Friar, who shews it to the youth. In the transport of agony *Venoni* becomes so vehement that *Michael*, after vainly imploring him to fly, is obliged to retreat, lest so impassioned an interview excite observation: and *Venoni*, left alone, dashes himself senseless on the ground. From this situation he is roused by the *Prior*, whom he reproaches with his guilt and convicts by the letter. The *Prior*, attended by some faithful villains, decides on an instant execution of his original design, in order thus at once to free himself from a rival, to possess himself of that rival's wealth, and to secure the concealment of his own plot. A scene rising in the third act discovers *Josepha* and *Venoni*, in two cells, separated from each other by a wall so thick as to prevent them from guessing their relative situation. After some interesting action and soliloquy in each cell, *Venoni*, through the aid of a scroll, which is supposed to have been left by some former victim, discovers an iron bar, with which he breaks away some hollow stones, and creates an opening into *Josepha's* cell. In the mean time *Michael* has fled, and conveyed tidings of the plot to the *Viceroy of Sicily* and to *Josepha's* parents, who having hurried to the Monastery, burst into the cells just as the lovers are deploring the desperation of their fate."

This story, in its general incident, is quite as much of English origin as French, and reminds us at once of Madame Genlis, Mr. Lewis, and all the romance writers who have preceded or followed them, from Diderot to Mr. Lane's literati, in painting the horrors of dungeons and the monstrosities of monks and nuns. It was very naturally attributed to Mr. Lewis himself, who is said, however, to deny the property. It would do him, I think, no particular honour or disgrace to be the proprietor. It is quite as good and quite as bad as the general tenour of his productions. It exhibits the same skill in scenes of imposing and romantic circumstance, the same fondness for hanging rather too long upon the last verge of passion, and the same impotent attempts at pleasantry. The two old servants male and female, were in the exact style of Mr. Lewis's humour, which always mistakes quaintness for shrewdness and a few obsolete phrases for original character. The compliments that pass between the villanous Friar and the suspecting Viceroy on their introduction to each other, in which the former is full of gross flattery and the latter of bitter and polite irony, were managed with much delicacy; and the ensuing scene of family distress, in which the devoted *Venoni*, exhausted both in manner and in voice by the violence of his despair, comes in his noviciate habit to take leave of his friends, drew the fixed attention of the audience by the profoundness of its grief, the remorse of *Josepha's* mother, the pauses that naturally arise in the midst of one general hopelessness of feeling, the mixture of patient agony and enjoyment which *Venoni* expresses in the contemplation of his misfortunes, and lastly by the appeal which he makes to his mistress's portrait hanging on the walls, a circumstance that when managed unobtrusively, al-

* Du Bois's Edition of Francis's Horace, vol. 1, p. 81.

ways produces a powerful effect of pathos, from the contrast of the feelings of the speaker and the dumb immoveable serenity of the object addressed. This scene raised the expectations of the audience to a higher pitch than is common in ordinary dramas, nor were they disappointed in the second act, where *Venoni* in the gardens of the monastery is shaken by the alternate arguments of the Monk and the Viceroy for and against a secluded life. He decided of course, though very naturally by the help of much sudden passion, in favour of dwelling near his *Josepha's* tomb. Though not very original, there was a philosophy in the idea of thus playing upon alternate passions, to which an English audience have not been accustomed, and as both their feelings and their judgment had hitherto been highly interested, they were led to form sanguine hopes of the interest of the catastrophe. The drama however terminated not only in a very common way, but even with that common way unfinished. *Venoni* is thrown into a dungeon, which is divided from the adjoining nunnery by a single wall; and on the other side of this wall his mistress *Josepha* happens to be confined in a dungeon too. Now as every thing here was to be simultaneous, the audience were to see both the sufferers at once, but at the same time to see them in all their *difficulties*: this was impossible to be managed, for though the fourth imaginary wall next the audience, which was to be supposed to have been taken away for their ocular accommodation, might have left the appearance of having been broken away, instead of the finished appearance which the carpenter at present has given to the opening, yet this would have begged the question almost as much as the present appearance, for we must as well suppose an agent to have abruptly broken away the wall as one to have left the fragment finished. The truth is therefore, there should have been no such scene at all. The audience had hitherto been accustomed to see the incidents carried on not only with nature but with every appearance of nature, and it was a hard thing for them at last, when the mysteries and difficulties should have encreased to all appearance, to be obliged to *imagine a difficulty* where the occasion, combined with the apparent easiness of communication between the two cells, forcibly told them that there ought to have appeared no such advantage of which the two lovers could *to all appearance* have availed themselves. We are accustomed by long habit to imagine a fourth wall interposing between the audience and ourselves on common occasions, but here was a very different case, for *the imaginary wall was to be imagined in a new way, as an absolute and apparent difficulty*; and this, together with the sudden appearance in the two cells of all the parties concerned, except the Monk, who was more concerned than half of them, and should have been brought in for punishment, was the cause of all that unpleasant and ludicrous feeling which induced the audience to revenge their disappointment by an almost general disapprobation. Upon the whole, if the *new* piece is not very new either in character or incident, it is at least a gentlemanly attempt at something more refined than usual, and contains some natural traits of the human heart decidedly superior to the common farce-writers of the day. It is about the pitch of any young author fond of Mr. Lewis and of the German dramatists, and who has general taste enough to reject what is vulgarly bad and to copy, though not to create, an interesting mediocrity. It is about the pitch, in short, of Mr. H. Siddons.

Venoni, the hero and the most prominent character throughout, was sustained by Mr. Elliston with a nature that was of itself sufficient to prove his tragic powers of no mean rank. In this character he was luckily compelled to subdue his usual force, and, I hope, there was not a heart in the house that did not feel his pathetic tones, reposing in their own patient anguish. That expression of a nervous sensibility, ready to writhe the features but restraining itself, into which he moulds a countenance not naturally tragic, is truly admirable. Mrs. H. Siddons performed the heroine; I need not say how, in a character of extreme sensibility, which allows a continual plaintiveness of voice. In the countenance of Mr. Elliston grief is generally a heavy despair; in that of Mr. Kemble it is a majestic self-reproof; in Mr. Young's it is natural and profound; in Mrs. Siddons's it is a supernatural dignity; in the face of Mrs. H. Siddons it is grief in heaven.

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MISCELLANEOUS SKETCHES

UPON TEMPORARY SUBJECTS, &c.

AN ANALYTICAL INQUIRY INTO THE INTELLECTUAL AND INSPIRING QUALITIES OF WOOD.

The Japanese tell us that there are five elements instead of four,—fire, air, earth, water, and *wood*; but it has been discovered by more civilized nations, that this additional element is no other than a thinking and ingenious animal. The ancients had something beyond a glimpse into this important discovery, when they talked of their speaking trees, their groaning and bleeding laurels, and their walking tripods; Ovid tells us more than once of oaks and willows, that would fall into hysterics if you attempted to fell them; and Homer particularly mentions some three legged stools, created by Vulcan, which came to the call or whistle like a common spaniel and disposed themselves in the most convenient manner for the person who sat down. The Roman Catholics, who preserved many of these great truths from the religion of their heathen predecessors, improved upon them with a most undaunted spirit of discovery, and many of their travellers went purposely into the Holy Land to bring away the speaking images and other vivacious pieces of wood, that were so abundant in that desart country. One wooden structure in particular, afterwards called the Chapel of Loretto, and famous for it's skill in physic and divination, was so pleased with the attentions paid to it by some Italians, that it could not resist it's desire of seeing their country, and accordingly returned the compliment by going directly to Italy, where it took up it's residence with an eclat suitable to it's numerous accomplishments. I need not mention all the other shrines, statues, and crosses, which have conversed in their time with so many credible per-

sons, both monks and nuns. The Africans enjoy precisely the same advantages in their *fetiches* and *obis*, and the Chinese, as well as Roman Catholic sailors, in their pocket gods and saints; and I think there cannot be a greater proof of the feeling inherent in wood, than the floggings which these sailors give to their divinities during a storm with an energy so proportionable to the sensibility of the patient. In short, of the feeling, the taste, and the genius of ligneous substances the British public may have daily conviction, not only in that facetious wooden gentleman of the name of PUNCH, who sings, plays at quarter-staff, and breaks his head with so exquisite a variety of fancy and pathos, but in the written compositions of that gentleman's own brothers, Messrs. DIBDIN, HOOK, and CHERRY, and other dramatic *block*-heads too numerous to mention, who are equally witty and equally wooden.

The fact then of an animal life and a reasoning faculty in wood is clearly demonstrated; but I have now to announce to my ingenious and loving countrymen a discovery which goes considerably farther, and proves an absolute inspiring quality or *affiandi spiritus* proceeding out of the said substance; and this is chiefly observable in what may be called the polypus, or motionless species, such as pulpits, benches, and chairs. The inspiring properties of the pulpit are too manifest for exemplification; whoever is acquainted with the Methodists can witness for me the surprising transformations effected by this celestial piece of wood, which converts coalheavers into casuists, debauchees into divines, and sinners into saints. One smirking girlish young gentleman, whom nature and art both together intended for a poetical man-milliner, it has metamorphosed into a second Angelic Doctor; and a man in Blackfriars, whose talents are precisely adapted for an actor of low comedy, no sooner steps into this accommodating machine than he becomes another CALVIN, and commits all his opponents to the flames with a most argumentative Christianity. It is in this wooden vessel of purification that the most vulgar and boisterous of the lower orders instantly become sweet babes of grace, that men who have been kicked out of decent society suddenly rise to be the elect of heaven, and that criminals who have narrowly escaped hanging, announce themselves as persons chosen by the Deity to damn the vast majority of his creatures. I know of nothing approaching to these beautiful effects, unless it be that useful structure called the gallows, which of all wooden compositions is indeed the most adapted to elevate and surprise: and I need not tell my readers how exactly similar to many of the pulpit alterations was the metamorphosis of the celebrated *Avershaw*, or *Abershaw*, who had been a sad reprobate in his days, but when he ascended the awful stage, how did he act? Why he threw away his prayer-book, because he preferred extempore, consigned all who differed with *him* in opinion to damnation, and finally left the stage with as thorough a contempt for *good works* as HUNTINGDON himself.

The chair and the bench do not pretend to powers so awfully original as those of the Methodist pulpit, but their effects on the world at large are at present infinitely more extensive. The curious inquirer may convince himself at once of the *affiandi spiritus* of this species of the animal by examining a certain House assembled during times of conveniency in the city of Westminster. The first thing that strikes the visitor in this assembly is the peculiar property of the chair at the upper end, in which no man can sit without a huge periwig. What the use of this hairy appendage can be, nobody has yet discovered; but the chair, like the late merry Mr. SUETT, seems to have a passion for a wig, and a wig it will have. The benches ranged on each side of the house possess the same decision, though they differ in opinion; and always inspire the person who occupies them with the sentiments they have held ever since they left their parent tree. If a man, for instance, sits on this particular side of the House, he cannot help being on the side of taxes and a corrupt government; but if this very man goes to the other side, then he is against all corruption, particularly that of the persons opposite him, and talks a great deal about the rights of the people. There was *a tall rawboned looking man*, some years ago, who sat for a short time on this latter side, and made a terrible noise about a reform in the benches opposite; but when he got over the way, he turned up his nose at every body else, and did nothing but give away places and make wars; and a very short time since, *a lusty black looking person*, who was very good natured while he sat opposite the aforesaid raw-bone, and was always telling the people how he loved them, flew into a strange passion as soon as he got into the other's place, and told the people that for what he cared they might all starve in a garret. The most extraordinary circumstance, however, attending these benches, is the attractive or magnetic quality residing in the one last-mentioned, from which its occupier can never manage to get up without the most piteous struggles, so that he very rarely attempts it when he is once seated; but indeed would do any thing, rather than be forced to rise. The chair made by Vulcan, which SERVIUS mentions, and which held the sitting person in spite of all the efforts of his friends, as long as Jupiter pleased to keep him there, was of the same loadstone tenacity as this simple looking bench, though by no means of so satisfactory a snugness; for the one was a punishment, while the other is so great a pleasure, that the greatest men in England have given up the whole repose of their lives and of their consciences, in order to keep their seat upon it. I have known all the gentlemen on the opposite side of the House uniting themselves and their whole strength to lug the person off, who would nevertheless sit as immoveably, and with as much brazen dignity, as the statue at Charing-cross: and this was the case with the aforesaid *raw-boned looking man*, who, in spite of all their pulls, cuffs, kicks, and hallooings, was complacently nailed to his seat for nearly twenty years.

The inspiring qualities of the bench and chair, and other pieces of furniture, are indeed so apparent, that in a short time the tables will literally be turned upon the philosophers; and instead of animals being machines, it will be ascertained that machines are animals. Some chairs and benches partake of the nature of the fish called torpedo, whose contact runs like electricity through your limbs, and renders you stiff and void of feeling. Of this kind are the chairs of churchwardens. Others have in them a principle of the

hard trotting horse, so that you cannot sit them without continually rising up, and putting yourself out of breath; and these are the seats in spouting-clubs and forums. Others again possess some of the privileges even of kings and gods, and can bestow reputation and wisdom upon men, who were before the meanest and dullest of mankind. Thus I have known people, who were remarkable for nothing but their ignorance and servility, suddenly become great upon the mere strength of a front seat at the opera, or a chair next the master of the house. Some men exhibit no talent but at the head of their tables; but then what a fund of wit and sound argument do they discover when they are there! The head of the table can no more do wrong, than the head of the nation; and what is very remarkable, the worst joke in the world is sure to be a good one, and to make every body die with laughter, provided it comes from the chair. Other men, who have nothing to think or to say when they are seated quietly in their chairs, are elevated into a surprising mirth the moment they can venture with a glass of wine in their hand upon the top of the table; while, on the other hand, there are a thousand choice spirits, who never think any thing of themselves till they are fairly under it, where they are as mischievous and make beasts of themselves with as great applause as any lion on the stage.

In short, the world in general have so intuitive a persuasion of the truth of this intellectual quality in wood, that they have already begun to speak of chairs and benches as they deserve, that is to say, in their own proper and wooden persons, abstracted from the human persons that may occupy them. If there is a dispute, for instance, in any assembly, rhetorical or otherwise, the case is always referred, by courtesy to the human instrument, but by actual voice to the wooden inspirer; and every body sets up a cry of "*Chair! Chair!*" meaning, no doubt, that the opinion of the person seated there is entirely regulated by that machine. In the same manner, thanks are returned to the *chair*; the *chair* is said to be facetious, to be dignified, or to be getting drunk; till at last every body is called upon to support the *chair*, as if it were too weak to stand on its legs. The English of late have, indeed, gone so far, as to present their addresses directly to the *throne*; though whether a machine can be said to be able to give proper answers, or rule a nation, I have not yet discovered.

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FINE ARTS.

BRITISH INSTITUTION STUDENTS' DINNER.

"The feast of reason and the flow of soul."

Last Thursday, the Students held their Annual Dinner at the Thatched-house Tavern. Mr. Sharp presided in a very judicious and gentlemanly manner. Mr. R. Sass was Deputy Chairman. Among the toasts were—his Majesty—the President—the Earl of Dartmouth and Governors of the Institution.—On the latter being drank, Mr. Geary delivered a poetic and classical Address on the moral effects of Art on the human character and conduct. The next toast was—the President and Members of the Royal Academy—On which Mr. West, the President of the Royal Academy, took occasion to exult in the high promise given by the talents of the youthful Students to exalt the character of the Academy and of the Arts in Britain, in supplying, with encreased energy, the dignified stations of their predecessors. The health of Mr. Green, the worthy Keeper, was next drank. Mr. Green conferred much praise on many of the Students for their industry and rapid improvement since the commencement of the British Institution three years since, and expatiated on the patriotic and generous spirit with which its Patrons had promoted the designs of the Institution. The President then gave the health of Mr. West, independently of his official character, thanking him in the general name of the Students, for his constant and parental attention to them at all times. Mr. West, in reply, hoped the Students would remain in the same undivided and cordial pursuit of their object as best conducive to the dignity and prosperity of the Arts. He passed a merited encomium on the interest which Mr. Wilcox had formerly taken in patronizing himself and the Arts in general, and from this striking instance of the benefits derived to Art from the active patronage of this tasteful individual, he rejoiced at the pleasing prospective view of them from the united patronage of the many illustrious and tasteful Members of the British Institution. The young plants of genius which had blossomed so vigorously under their early care, would no doubt, from a perpetuation of the same fostering attention, be expanded to a maturity of merit. Among other interesting remarks, Mr. West said, that on his arrival at Paris during the cessation of hostilities, to contemplate the accumulated stores of ancient and modern Art in the Louvre, he was soon recognized by the different Professors of Art, of Literature, and Science, who honoured him with their attentions, and observed to him, that however nations may be politically at variance, those who cultivated the refined energies of intellect, who laboured for the improvement and delight of the human species in Art and Science, and in different countries, should have no other disunion but what was occasioned by the intervention of land and water, but co-operate for the advancement of the high objects of their pursuit. Mr. Barclay, a visitor, among other remarks about the subserviency of commerce to the benefit of the Arts, said, that professional excellence, with honour its result, and not money, should be the prime pursuit of the aspiring Artist. Mr. Sharp replied, that though that was true, yet money was indispensible. Artists are not a species of Camelions, whom some naturalists describe as living on air. After some introductory observations, Mr. Drummond justly observed that the patronage of portraiture was not, as many falsely supposed, patronage of Art, which was advanced only by the promotion of history and landscape painting.

Mr. Sass, Mr. Pocock, and other Gentlemen, sang some excellent songs, and the company passed the time very convivially till a very late hour. The venerable President of the Royal Academy did not leave them till one.

CITY.

THE LORD MAYOR AND THE CITY OF LONDON.

In consequence of the late refusal of the Lord Mayor to convene a Common Hall, a numerous Meeting of the Livery was held in the Great Room of the New London Tavern, Cheapside. Mr. Deputy Goodbehere having been called to the Chair, the following Protest, concluding with another Requisition for a Common Hall, was unanimously agreed to; and a Deputation of several Liverymen, with the Chairman, appointed to wait upon his Lordship therewith :—

MY LORD,

Having received your Lordship's Answer to the Requisition dated the 2d November, 1808, and signed by a number of Liverymen, requesting your Lordship

"To convene a Common Hall on an early day, in order to take into consideration the late Convention in Portugal, by which the character, honour, and interests of the Country have been so deeply affected, and to adopt such measures as may be deemed advisable"—

In which Answer you "decline to convene a Common Hall as requested," and assign as a reason, that "Since the date of the Requisition a Court of Inquiry has been instituted by his Majesty's command, for investigating the causes which led to the Convention alluded to, that the Court is now prosecuting such inquiry," and that you are "of opinion, that a Meeting of the Livery of London in Common Hall, on the subject proposed by the Requisition, pending such public inquiry, will be highly *unnecessary, unseasonable, and improper*"—

We, the undersigned Liverymen, beg leave to observe—

That the rights of the Livery of London to meet in Common Hall, to deliberate on matters of public grievance, has been ever exercised, with very few exceptions, and that such exceptions have been uniformly stigmatized with the reprobation of the Livery :—

That if a Chief Magistrate is to grant such meetings only when they coincide with his own views of the propriety and utility of the measures to be proposed, his conduct must amount to a violation of the most sacred rights of the subject, inasmuch as it necessarily deprives the people of the legal means of expressing their sentiments on all great questions affecting the common weal, and render null the liberties so repeatedly asserted by their ancestors, and so clearly and emphatically declared by the Bill of Rights :—

That with respect to the date of the Requisition, we beg to state, that it is subsequent to the appointment of the Court of Inquiry, and that other Meetings have been held under similar circumstances, to which no such objection has been made :—

That since the Sheriffs of Counties, Officers appointed by the Crown, have not withheld from the people the exercise of the right in question under such pretence, we cannot forbear expressing our astonishment and displeasure, that the Chief Magistrate of the City of London should, by almost his first official act, deny it to those to whose good opinion, confidence and suffrages, he has been indebted for his high situation :—

That without adopting your Lordship's notions respecting what you term a "Court of Inquiry," we trust we may be allowed to exercise our own judgment as to the institution of a tribunal unknown to the laws of this country; appointed by the Crown; unsworn; possessing no authority to compel the attendance of witnesses, to administer oaths, or to acquit or condemn the parties whose conduct is under investigation :—

That we cannot observe without real concern, the suspicion which your Lordship's Answer evidently implies, that the great body of the Livery of London, to whom is entrusted the choice of a Chief Magistrate, of Sheriffs, of Members of Parliament, and of other important Officers, could so far forget themselves as to countenance or adopt any proceedings incompatible with the character they have ever maintained, or repugnant to the pure principles of public justice :—

That we presume your Lordship may safely confide these matters to the Livery themselves, who do not solicit your advice, but merely claim their undoubted right, and leave them to be the guardians of their own character and honor :

That, as the only ground of objection (to put the most favourable construction upon your Lordship's Answer) appears to be a supposition, that since the date of the Requisition, circumstances have arisen to preclude the necessity of such Meeting, we beg to state to your Lordship, that several of the names have been signed subsequent to its date; that the Liverymen who signed it were generally aware, that it could not be delivered until a late date, and that no material circumstances occurred to cause a change in their opinion as to the propriety or necessity thereof. For the purpose, however, of obviating every difficulty in this respect,

We, the undersigned Liverymen of the City of London, do hereby again request your Lordship to convene a Common Hall on an early day, in order to consider the late Convention in Portugal, by which the character, honour, and interests of the Country have been so deeply affected, and to adopt such measures as may be deemed advisable.

November 22, 1808.

To the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, &c.

The above Protest and Requisition was signed by nearly one hundred Liverymen, and presented to his Lordship by Mr. Goodbehere and the Deputation. The following answer was returned by the Lord Mayor :—

"*Mansion-House, Saturday Nov.* 26, 1808.

"The Lord Mayor presents his compliments to Mr. Deputy Goodbehere. The considerations which induced the Lord Mayor to decline convening the Livery of London in Common Hall, on the Requisition before presented to him, for the purpose of considering, at this time, the late Convention in Portugal, remain in full force, and induce his Lordship again to decline convening the Meeting requested by the renewed application, in the same terms, for the same purpose which has been presented by Mr. Goodbehere, this morning.

"The Lord Mayor greatly regrets to find himself obliged, in the official exercise of his discretion, to differ from any part of the respectable Livery of London, on their view of the subject."

"*Samuel Goodbehere, Esq. Deputy, &c. &c. &c.*"

LAW.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, WESTMINSTER.

Wednesday, Nov. 20.

CONVENTION OF PORTUGAL.

JOHNSTON *v.* COOK.

This was action of damages for an assault and battery.

Mr. Serjeant BEST stated, that the plaintiff, although only a private soldier in the Dragoon Guards, had a right to be protected by the laws of his country; what the defendant was he knew not; he had not, however, been satisfied with making use of language to throw a doubt on the loyalty of the plaintiff, but he had also thrown a pot of porter in his face, afterwards struck him, knocked him down, and injured him so much, that the braises were perceptible for a length of time afterwards.

S. Dowdal knew both the plaintiff and the defendant. On the evening of the 23d September, he met them at the Black Horse and Wind-Mill public-house, Whitechapel.

They were in company with several other persons, conversing about the Convention of Portugal. The defendant charged the plaintiff with drawing the head of Bonaparte on the table. The plaintiff said it was not Bonaparte's head, but Sir Hew Dalrymple's. The defendant then took a piece of chalk, and wrote on the table, that they were a d——d disaffected set. The plaintiff said he was not disaffected, for he was a soldier, and had fought the battles of his country on the Continent. The defendant then observed, he must be a pretty rascal to sell himself to be shot at for sixpence a-day. The plaintiff answered, that he had fought at the cannon's mouth, where he, the defendant, would be afraid to shew his ape's face. The defendant immediately threw a pint of porter at the plaintiff, who took out his handkerchief, and was wiping his face, when the defendant came up, struck him in the mouth, and knocked him down. On getting up, he said to the defendant, "you have disgraced me as a soldier; if you get two swords or two sticks, I will fight you;" on which the defendant threw two more pints of beer in his face.

On his cross-examination he stated that the defendant said he had been a soldier in the Life Guards; on which the plaintiff said they were not better than the London Militia. The plaintiff was a painter, as well as a soldier; but he did not draw the figure of *Sir Hew Dalrymple with his mouth open*, and the figure of Bonaparte throwing guineas down his throat!!!—It was only the figure of the head of Sir Hew Dalrymple, with the words, "*Quack, quack*," over it. He did not hear the plaintiff say that the defendant was one of Lord Cathcart's *humbugs*.

Mr. Serjeant COCKELL observed, he was extremely sorry such a trumpery case should have found its way into that Court. He doubted the plaintiff's bravery, because he boasted of it—would it be believed, that the man who had been in the field of battle, and at the cannon's mouth, would suffer porter to be thrown into his face, without making resistance? For his part, he thought he was no more a soldier than *Major Sturgeon*.

Lord Chief Justice MANSFIELD observed, it was a shame that so much of the time of the Court should be taken up, when there was so much more important business to be gone through.

Verdict for the Plaintiff—damages—*One Shilling*.

Thursday, Dec. 1.

GRUNDY *v.* HUMPHREYS.

In this case the plaintiff sought to recover damages for the loss of his daughter's labour, in consequence of her seduction by the defendant.

The plaintiff is a boat-builder at Gravesend, and the defendant an anchorsmith at the same place. The parties had for many years lived in the most intimate terms: the defendant was about the age of 27, and the girl about the age of 18. The defendant became a widower about a year and a half ago; and in August, 1807, he succeeded in effecting a criminal intercourse with the plaintiff's daughter.

Mr. Serjeant BEST, for the defendant, succeeded in extorting from the young woman, in the course of her cross-examination, that she had had sweet-hearts before her acquaintance with the defendant; that to some of them she had allowed unbecoming familiarities, three years before the period in question: and that she had continued to walk more than once with those same persons, under the cloud of night, after they had been guilty of unbecoming familiarities with her person.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE here interposed, and recommended to Mr. Serjeant SHEPHERD for the plaintiff to consent to a Juror being withdrawn, which was finally consented to.

Friday, Dec. 2.

PICTURES.—OBERLIN *v.* GIBBONS.

The defendant agreed with the plaintiff, a miniature-painter, to paint miniatures of himself, his wife, and four children, for six guineas, and specially covenanted that they should be *tolerable* likenesses! The plaintiff agreed to these conditions, and engaged to alter such of the pictures as the defendant might disapprove. It so happened, that three of the pictures, those of Mr. Gibbons, his wife, and one of the children, were held to be no likenesses at all; and indeed, the face given to Mr. Gibbons, appeared more like that of the Recorder of London!! The plaintiff promised to retouch his work, to cut off Mrs. Gibbons's head, and give her a new one. He never, however, performed his promise, and when a demand was subsequently made of 13 guineas on his part, payment was of course refused, not only of the overcharge, but of the sum agreed upon, as the conditions had not been fulfilled. Plaintiff nonsuited.

OLD BAILEY.

Wednesday, Nov. 30.

John Stow Lundie, alias *Capt. Lundie*, was brought into the dock, to take his trial on an indictment, which charged him with forging Bank of England notes. The Keepers had much difficulty to get the prisoner into Court, and the instant he appeared, he conducted himself like a maniac; he not only interrupted Mr. Shelton, Clerk of the Sessions, while he was reading the indictment, but uttered oaths and execrations against the Judges. Looking steadfastly at Mr. Justice Grose, he exclaimed—"D—n you, who are you, Sir?" He then turned to Mr. Newman, the Keeper of Newgate, whom he took by the hand, and said, "You are the only friend I have." While the Court and the spectators were struck with astonishment at the prisoner's apparently frantic insanity, Mr. GARROW, as Counsel for the prosecution, addressed the Judge, and stated that the prisoner stood charged with a capital offence, namely, that of forging bank-notes. He was ready to proceed immediately with the trial, but having understood that the prisoner's mind had been deranged during his confinement, the persons concerned in the prosecution were willing, from humane motives, to remand the prisoner until the real state of his intellects could be ascertained by the faculty.

Mr. Justice GROSE here remanded the prisoner, who was led from the bar, uttering the most indecent language.

Mr. GARROW then applied to the Court to order a Jury to try whether the prisoner was in his right senses, at the ensuing Sessions.

Mr. Justice GROSE observed, that the learned Counsel for the prosecution had been lenient in permitting the prisoner to defer his trial, and he complied with the application.—The prisoner will of course be tried next Session.

Robert Fenton was indicted for feloniously marrying Mary Wainright, while his former wife, Mary Coule, was living.

John Turner produced a marriage certificate, by which it appeared that the prisoner was married to Mary Coule at Hawkehead, in Lancashire, on the 22d of March, 1797, by whom he had two children.

Mary Wainright, the second wife, stated, that she was married to the prisoner in St. James's, Clerkenwell, on the 19th February, 1803. She lived with him about two years, when he left her, after taking away all her cloaths. She afterwards applied to him for assistance, and he sent her a letter from Great Romford, in which he stated, that she could make no demand on him, because she was not his lawful wife. He had deceived her and himself, as he had a wife and two children when he married. He concluded by bidding her adieu for ever. The facts were clearly made out against the prisoner, and the Jury found him Guilty.

The prisoner stood charged on a second indictment with a similar offence; but the Court considered it unnecessary to put him on a second trial. It appeared that he had married three wives.

Thursday, Dec. 1.

An abandoned miscreant, of the name of *Wright*, aged 63, was convicted of a rape on his own grand-daughter, Ann Wright, a child only 14 years of age!—The details are unfit for the public eye.

Friday, Dec. 2.

Thomas Cannan was indicted for taking from Joseph Butter a 10*l.* note and half a guinea. The prosecutor, who has the management of the business of Wirgman, jeweller, in St. James's-street, was going through the Park home on the evening of the 8th of August last, and had sat down on one of the benches, where several persons were sitting, among whom was the prisoner, who, on Mr. Butter's proceeding towards home, followed him against his wish, and laid hold of his arm. The prosecutor being offended at this behaviour, the prisoner pulled from his pocket an officer's staff, told the prosecutor that he was young Sayer of Bow-street, and charged him with a most offensive crime. The prosecutor greatly alarmed at such a charge, consented, at the proposal of the prisoner, to give him 10*l.* rather than be publicly brought up on such an odious charge; but not having the sum about him, he proceeded to a pawnbroker's and pledged his watch and seals for the amount, which he gave the prisoner, with half a guinea. The prisoner then went away, but five days after he called upon the prosecutor, demanding with threats more money, which the prosecutor refused giving him, and afterwards had him taken into custody. The pawnbroker proved the fact of the pledge, and stated that the prosecutor seemed most violently agitated at the time.

The Court were decidedly of opinion, that such a degree of dread as deprived a man of a commonly firm mind of the controul over his property, even though that dread did not arise from any immediate apprehension for his personal safety, fell within the meaning of the crime laid in the indictment. Guilty—Death.

James Coddington was found guilty of a similar offence against the same prosecutor.

Saturday, Dec. 3.

Samuel Collins, alias *Hasper*; *Atkins*, alias *Starkey*; and *Cavell*, alias *Pulky Jack*, notorious housebreakers, were capitally convicted of a burglary, in the dwelling-house of the Countess Dowager Morton, in Park-street, on the 4th of October. The particulars of this burglary have been more than once reported in the examinations at Marlborough-street. The officers completely identified Starkey and Collins, but the evidence against Cavell was more of a circumstantial nature. He, however, was seen in company with the other prisoners lurking about Lady Morton's house on the evening the burglary was committed, and a fresh witness on the trial, a man of the name of Peter Decaux, a carpenter, was present at the Bleeding Heart public-house, in Drury-lane, when the robbery was fixed on, and this witness represented Cavell as a principal in the scheme of the robbery.

Baron Hotham remarked, that the Police Officers (who had been asked by the prisoners' Counsel, during trial, whether they did not expect to receive the reward for the apprehension of the prisoners) had intrepidly done their duty in a manner which was particularly deserving the notice of the Court and the public; and particularly John Foy, who had combated the desperadoes in the absence of his brother officers.

The other trials were unimportant.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

The unhappy man who put a period to his existence in the Edgeware-road, proves to be a Mr. Edwards, who a few days since took the Waterman's Arms public-house, in Wapping-street, for which he paid 1000 guineas. No reason can as yet be assigned for the rash action.

A few days since, a man who managed the business for Mrs. Oliver, of the George and Vulture tap, at Tottenham, was taken into custody, and examined before a Magistrate, charged with a violent assault upon her. He was held in custody of a peace officer, until he should find bail; but none coming forwards, he made a desperate effort to escape from the Constable; and dashed to leap over a ditch, but fell in the middle, and was suffocated.

Sunday, as a Gentleman was riding through Islington, his horse took fright, and set off in a most furious manner towards the Terrace at Highbury; the animal ran with such force against one of the pillars at the entrance of that place, that he was killed on the spot: the Gentleman was also dashed forward in such a manner, that his skull was fractured, and he was conveyed away without the least hope of recovery.

To the honour of the Magistrates of Glasgow, two very young lads, apprentices to a baker in the Gallowgate, were convicted on Tuesday, the 20th ultimo, of having most inhumanly thrown into the heated oven, a cat belonging to one of their master's neighbours, which they had caught in the backhouse, and were punished by fine and imprisonment.—The cruelty to animals daily witnessed in this Metropolis, calls loudly for interference. There was a Bill known by the name of the "Humanity Bill," introduced into the House (we think) by Lord Milford. It were highly desirable that some regulation were provided on this subject.

MARRIAGES.

Friday se'nnight, at Rufford Church, the Rev. Thomas Clarke, Curate of that place, to Miss Mary Alty, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Richard Alty. The bridegroom, an eccentric genius, published his own bans, three several Sundays, in order, as he said, to prove the patience and humility of his wife, and to set his parishioners an example, in person, in what manner the honourable estate of matrimony should be entered upon, by such as enter upon it deliberately.

Lately, at Dromore, to the disgrace of all the parties concerned, Mr. Wm. Rea, of Edenruary, aged 73, to Miss Lucinda Lee, of Drumshee, aged 24!!!

DEATHS.

On the 8th Oct. at Gibraltar, in consequence of a wound which he received in a duel with Major Ash, of the 48th regiment, Mr. John Brugnier, Purser of his Majesty's ship St. Juan.

On Monday se'nnight, in Hereford, after an illness of two days, aged 83, the Rev. Wm. Allen, D.D. one of the Prebendaries of the Cathedral Church of Hereford.

On Tuesday, at Newmarket, T. Panton, Esq. brother to the late Duchess of Ancaster.

At Braydon, aged 46, Mrs. Smith; she was found burnt to death in the brewhouse, over a pan of coals, upon which, it is supposed, she had fallen in a fit.

On Wednesday se'nnight, Mr. J. Hilton, many years Judge of the Course at Newmarket, Epsom, and Bibury, and Publisher of the Race Lists at the former place.

In St. Peter per Mountergate, Norwich, as —— Brjan was eating his breakfast, he suddenly felt a pain in his wrist, which proceeded to his shoulder, and thence to the lower part of the body, occasioning his immediate death. His son, twelve years of age, distracted at the sudden loss of his parent, was instantly taken ill with convulsion fits, and expired next evening.

In Paddington-street, on the 26th ult. the wife of Robert Rawlings, Esq.:—

"No single virtue we could most commend,
"Whether the wife, the mother, or the friend;
"For she was all."

Pious through life, in death resigned.

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